

April 28, 1975

contrary to what Senator Goodrich has stated, is that Nebraska believes in a level of decency as far as existence below which it will not allow any of its citizens to fall so long as the state is able to offer help. We have done a lot of things to assist interest groups here. I think Senator Goodrich voted for the liquor bill Friday that had to hurry up, hurry up and get through according to what Senator Mahoney told us. There are other special interest groups that will help real estate developers that I am sure Senator Goodrich will be in favor of. I doubt that he voted against the Constitutional amendment of Senator Cavanaugh's which will allow general obligation bonds to be let by a city to obtain land and clear it and then turn it over to private developers. So all of a sudden his concern about the money that will help unfortunate people doesn't ring, except in a very hollow fashion. Senator Nichol told me that Sunday the Chaplain had something to say about me in the paper which I didn't have the opportunity to see but when I hear things like that, it makes me think of verses and there is one that says, "If though I speak with the sound...the tongue of men and angels and have not charity, I am as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal." So, "Now remain these three, faith, hope, and love. The greatest of these is love." Now all of this talk that is given when special interest bills are being considered is as tinkling cymbals and sounding brass, very hollow. What we have to do, I think, in a legislature, like this, when a policy is being established is look at the purpose of a government and a state. A state has no basis or justification for existing except for making the quality of life for the citizens better. With the economic conditions being what they are throughout this country, many people with saleable skills are losing jobs. Many people with advanced degrees, college degrees, university degrees are losing jobs and cannot obtain employment. So, society has become like a pyramid. The top is getting narrower and narrower with fewer and fewer people there. The base, those who are unemployed, those who are made unfortunate through the operation of economic principles in this country or the misapplication of them, that base is getting bigger and bigger and bigger. So now Senator Goodrich is not just talking about what he customarily does, and this is not my characterization. It isn't exactly his but the thought is the same. The good-for-nothing people who don't want to work, who would rather get welfare than earn a living. He is talking about teachers, engineers, consultants, accountants, all kinds of people that he would respect, that he would delight to attend a party with and rub elbows with, talk about the good old times, about all the opportunities of the free enterprise system. There are people who are on farms who are not going to be able to make a decent living. They are going to have to obtain assistance from the state. During the thirties when the depression was here, I don't remember it but I read about it and I hear older people talk about it, everybody in all segments of society were thrown out of work. So all of a sudden, nobody condemned public relief anymore because one's who traditionally condemned it had to become recipients of it. Now those who have